

CLAIMS

1 1. In a data processing system having a user terminal for entering a
2 transaction request as an XML message, wherein said transaction request
3 has one of a plurality of formats, responsively coupled via a publically
4 available digital communication network to an enterprise server for
5 responding to said transaction request, the improvement comprising:

6 a. A generic gateway interposed between said user terminal and said
7 enterprise server which converts said XML message to a different format
8 and responsively couples said user terminal to said enterprise server.

1 2. The improvement according to claim 1 further comprising a
2 plurality of adapters interposed between said generic gateway and said user
3 terminal which responsively couples said user terminal to said generic
4 gateway wherein each one of said plurality of adapters corresponds to said
5 one of said plurality of formats.

1 3. The improvement according to claim 2 wherein said publically
2 available digital communication network further comprises the internet.

1 4. The improvement according to claim 3 further comprising an NT
2 Server housing said generic gateway and providing a WebTx environment.

1 5. The improvement according to claim 4 wherein said user terminal
2 further comprises an industry compatible personal computer.

1 6. An apparatus comprising:

- 2 a. A user terminal which generates a service request as an XML
3 message using one of a plurality of formats;
- 4 b. A publically accessible digital data communication network
5 responsively coupled to said user terminal;
- 6 c. A generic gateway within a server responsibly coupled to said
7 publically available digital data communication network; and
- 8 d. An enterprise server responsively coupled to said generic server.

1 7. An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said server further
2 comprises:

- 3 a. A plurality of adapters responsively coupled intermediate said
4 publically available digital data communication network and said generic
5 gateway.

1 8. An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said publically
2 accessible digital communication network further comprises the world wide
3 web.

1 9. An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said server further
2 comprises WebTx middleware.

1 10. An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said user terminal
2 further comprises an industry compatible personal computer operating
3 under Windows.

1 11. A method of processing a transaction comprising:

- 2 a. Composing a service request as an XML message using one of a
3 plurality of formats;

4 b. Transferring said XML message via a publically accessible digital
5 data communication network to one of a plurality of adapters corresponding
6 to said one of said plurality of formats within a server; and

7 c. Converting said XML message into a standardized format for
8 processing within a generic gateway within said server.

1 12. A method according to claim 11 further comprising:

2 a. Transferring said converted and processed service request from
3 said generic gateway to an end service provider.

1 13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said publically
2 accessible digital data communication network further comprises the
3 Internet.

1 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said one of said
2 plurality of formats further comprises an active server page.

1 15. A method according to claim 13 wherein said one of said
2 plurality of formats further comprises visual basic.

1 16. An apparatus comprising:

2 a. Means for generating an XML message containing a service
3 request using one of a plurality of formats;

4 b. Means responsively coupled to said generating means for
5 transferring said XML message via a publically accessible digital data
6 network;

7 c. Means responsively coupled to said publically accessible digital
8 data network for adapting said XML message to a standardized format using
9 one of a plurality of adapters; and

10 d. Means responsively coupled to said adapting means for processing
11 said service request via a generic gateway.

1 17. An apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising means
2 responsively coupled to said processing means for transferring said service
3 request to an end service provider via one of a plurality of connectors.

1 18. An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said one of said
2 plurality of adapters corresponds to said one of said plurality of connectors.

1 19. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said publically
2 accessible digital data communication network is the Internet.

1 20. An apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said generating
2 means further comprises an industry compatible personal computer
3 operating under Windows.